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4 April 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with BOB on Rodino bill, H.R. 10400

1. Mr. Rommel, Deputy, Legislative Reference, BOB, was unable to keep his appointment with me and had Miss Mary Sabine and Mr. Tryck sit in for him. I first explained that the bill is designed primarily to be of assistance to employees of RFE and RL. I pointed out that most of these people are well educated, articulate persons who understand the value of organization and who have their own union; that over the years they have been visited by many congressmen, including Rodino, Ried, and Chelf, and that previous bills have been introduced in their behalf. I noted that the Rodino bill, which came to our attention during the 89th Congress, First Session, was specifically spelled out in behalf of RFE and RL, and because of Agency interest in these groups we had approached Rodino and indicated our belief that the bill was too specific and might better be couched in more general terms and that the resulting conferences had produced the bill which BOB is now considering. I indicated that most of the employees who would be affected by this bill already hold permanent residence visas, that their children attend American schools in Europe, nearly all speak English, and that the services of many will be lost if some relief is not provided, since they are anxious to become American citizens and will not stay in Europe indefinitely if it means the indefinite postponement of their citizenship.

2. Miss Sabine and Mr. Tryck felt that with this background they better understood what is involved and could see no objections to the bill other than the following three raised by the Department of Justice:


a. Lack of specific guidelines as to what organizations qualify under the bill. This was generated by the fact that there

are some 600 non-profit organizations operating overseas. We agreed that restating (1) of the proposed bill to read "is employed by a bona fide United States incorporated non-profit organization which is primarily engaged in disseminating, etc," would cure the defect without damaging our purposes.

b. The bill is silent as to procedures for making determinations as to eligibility. We agreed that the Administration should be under the Department of Justice with regulations to be prescribed by Justice.

c. The bill should be an amendment to Section 316 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act, rather than a separate bill. We all agreed that this is proper.

3. BOB will return the bill to Justice with a request that Justice work out the language necessary to effect the above changes. I shall get in touch with the appropriate person at Justice to work with him on this and to expedite the changes.

  
Office of Legislative Counsel

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